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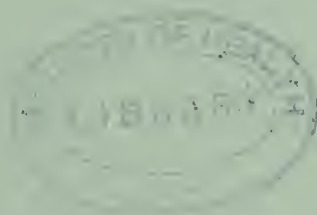
B O R O U G H O F B R I D G N O R T H

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1953



BOROUGH OF BRIDGNORTH

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

1 9 5 3.

Medical Officer of Health: J. L. Gregory, M.B., F.R.F.P.S.,
D.P.H., D.T.M. & Hy.

Senior Sanitary Inspector: E. J. Morgans, B.Sc., M.R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: R. V. Webb, A.R.S.I.

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BOROUGH OF BRIDGNORTH
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1953

Bridgnorth.

July, 1954.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough during the year ended 31st December 1953.

During that year Dr. James L. Gregory was your Medical Officer of Health and he terminated his appointment on 31st December after a period of two years service.

The Vital Statistics for the year are satisfactory, and no serious outbreak of Infectious Disease occurred, though Whooping-cough was prevalent among the younger school-children during the last quarter of the year. Only 3 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified as compared with 5 in 1952. There were no new cases of the non-respiratory form of the disease (5 in 1952) and there were no deaths from Tuberculosis.

Good progress was made in the Council's Housing Programme - a total of 72 new houses being completed in 1953 on the Grove Estate. 92 houses have now been completed on the Grove since building commenced there in December 1951. 52 houses were under construction at the end of the year, 38 Council and 14 private houses. Private building has shown an increase during the year: 19 new houses having been completed, as compared with 9 in 1952.

Approval was received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the new sewerage & sewage disposal scheme for the Borough, and a starting date of 1st April 1954 agreed with the Ministry.

The state of the refuse-tip in Stanley Lane gives cause for some concern, and as the tipping-space is rapidly filling up it seems advisable that consideration be given in the near future to the provision of a new site or alternative methods of refuse disposal.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. E.J. Morgans and Mr. R.V. Webb for their assistance in preparing certain Sections of this Report.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,

MARGARET H.F. TURNBULL.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough in acres.	- 2,645
Estimated population (mid-1953)	- 6,133
Number of Inhabited Houses.	- 2,076
Rateable Value of the District (at 31.12.53)	- £34,987.
Estimated Product of ld. Rate.	- £130.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>1953.</u>
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Legitimate	(Male	51
	(Female	47
	(Total	98
	(Rate per 1,000 of population	16.0
Illegitimate	(Male	2
	(Female	5
	(Total	7
	(Rate per 1,000 of population	1.1
Total	(Male	53
	(Female	52
	(Total	105
	(Crude Rate per 1,000 of population	17.1
	("Corrected" Rate " "	17.8

Still-Births

(Male	0
(Female	0
(Total	0
(Rate per 1,000 live & still-births	0

Deaths

(Male	37
(Female	39
(Total	76
(Crude Rate per 1,000 of population	12.4
("Corrected" Rate " "	10.4

Deaths related to Pregnancy and Childbirth.

(Total	0
(Rate per 1,000 live & still-births	0

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age.

Legitimate	(Male	2
	(Female	1
	(Total	3
	(Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	30.6

Illegitimate- Nil.

Total	(Male	2
	(Female	1
	(Total	3
	(Rate per 1,000 total live births	28.6

Deaths from :-

Cancer (all sites)	11.
Measles	0
Whooping-cough	0
Tuberculosis (pulmonary & non-pulmonary)	0
Diphtheria	0

Rates for England & Wales

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	15.5
Still-birth Rate per 1,000 live & still births	22.4
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	11.4
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	26.8

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

Population

The Registrar-General's estimated mid-year population for 1953 was 6,133, compared with 6,045 in 1952. This figure is employed for the calculation of birth-rates and death-rates.

Births

There were 105 births (of which 7 were illegitimate) - a decrease of 12 on the figure for 1952.

The birth-rate per 1,000 of the population was 17.1 but when "corrected" to allow for comparison with the country in general the figure was 17.8. This was slightly higher than the rate for England & Wales of 15.5.

Still-Births

There were no still-births registered during the year, and there were likewise none in 1952.

Deaths

The number of deaths was 76 - a decrease of 25 on the figures for 1952.

The crude death-rate per 1,000 of population was 12.4 (13.8 in 1952) - corrected by comparability factor to 10.4. This is slightly lower than the figure for England & Wales of 11.4.

Causes of Deaths.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Diseases of Heart & Circulation	9	14	23
Cancer (all sites)	5	6	11
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	5	11
Bronchitis	2	3	5
Influenza	2	2	4
Accidents	3	1	4
Pneumonia	0	2	2
Tuberculosis	0	0	0
All other causes	10	6	16
All causes	37	39	76

As in recent years, Diseases of the Heart & Circulation, Cancer and Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System, together account for the greatest number of deaths (59.2% of the total).

Deaths from Cancer during the year numbered 11, as compared with 14 in the previous year. Of these 11 deaths, 2 were due to cancer of the lung (1 male, 1 female).

It is pleasing to note that there were no deaths registered as due to Tuberculosis during 1953. There were 3 due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the previous year.

Infant Mortality

Three infants died before reaching the age of 1 year, compared with 4 during 1952. Of these three, two died under the age of 4 weeks. The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 28.6, which is slightly higher than the rate for England & Wales of 26.8

Maternal Mortality

It is satisfactory to note that again this year there were no deaths related to pregnancy or childbirth.

Natural Increase of Population

The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 29.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Staff

The names and qualifications of the Public Health Officers are given at the beginning of the Report. Dr. James L. Gregory, who has been Medical Officer of Health of the Borough since 1952 terminated his appointment on 31st December 1953 after a period of two years' service. There were no other changes in staff during the year.

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examination of samples of water, milk, ice-cream, pathological specimens etc. are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury, and full use continues to be made of the facilities available.

Ambulance Services

The provision of Ambulance services is the responsibility of the County Council as Local Health Authority. The Central Depot is in Shrewsbury (Tel: 6331, after 16.8.54) and two ambulances and a car for sitting-cases are stationed at Bridgnorth, and are used for local purposes.

Home Nursing, Health-Visiting, Domiciliary Midwifery Services etc.

The above services are provided by the Local Health Authority and details may be obtained from the report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Two district-nurse-midwives and one Health Visitor work in the Borough.

Hospital Accommodation

No changes occurred during the year as regards hospital facilities.

The Bridgnorth and South Shropshire Infirmary admits general cases including children. Cases of Infectious Disease are admitted to Wolverhampton Isolation Hospital or to Monkmoor Hospital, Shrewsbury, and tuberculosis sufferers are treated at Shirlett Sanatorium or Prees Heath Sanatorium.

Innago House is now reserved as Part III accommodation under the National Assistance Act and the Chronic Sick are treated at Shifnal Hospital.

Maternity cases are dealt with at the Infirmary and in the one nursing-home in the Borough.

Bridgnorth Welfare Centre

A Child Welfare Clinic is held every Monday at the Welfare Centre, Northgate, from 10 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 - 4.30 p.m., and an Assistant County Medical Officer is in attendance during these sessions. Welfare Foods were distributed during the year at the Centre during clinic hours and at the Food Office at other times. X (see page 6)

A Minor Ailments Clinic for school-children is held daily, except Saturdays, at the Centre from 9.0 a.m. - 10 a.m., a Medical Officer being in attendance on Mondays only when all cases attending are seen.

A special session for Immunisation & Vaccination is held on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 10.0 a.m. - 11.0 a.m.

Other clinics under the direction of the County Council are as follows:-

Orthopaedic - 1st and 3rd Mondays in every month 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Chest Clinic - 4th Tuesday in every month 10.30 - 12.30 p.m.;
2.0 - 3.0 p.m.

Speech Therapy - Fridays 9.30 -12.30 p.m.; 1.30 - 4.0 p.m.

The Centre continues to be used also as a hospital out-patients clinic owing to lack of accommodation in the Hospital.

Domestic Help Service

This service is provided by the County Council and was continued during the year. It is available under the National Health Service Act for "any person who is ill, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age". Four workers were available during the year for duty, and good use was made of the service.

Enquiries regarding Domestic Help Services were received at the Welfare Centre on Mondays and Fridays during the hours of 2.0 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. Alterations have since been made in these arrangements and the hours are now as follows:-

Monday, Wednesday & Friday. 2.15 - 4.30 p.m.

X Since the County Council assumed responsibility for the distribution of the Welfare Foods (July 1954) changes have been made in these arrangements and details have been published in the local Press.

Welfare Foods may now be obtained as follows at Bridgnorth Welfare Centre -

Monday : 10 a.m. - 12 noon; 2.15 - 4.30 p.m.

Friday : 2.15 - 4.30 p.m.

Saturday : 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

This Section deals with water supplies, sewerage & sewage disposal, refuse collection and disposal, pest control, and other matters relating to environmental hygiene.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspectors for information contained in this and in the succeeding two Sections.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The town's main water supply is obtained from two bore-holes at Rindleford Mill, and has been satisfactory as regards quality and quantity during the year. The water pumped is chlorinated at the source by means of a pressure operated chlorinator. This supply also serves some areas outside the Borough and the demands made on it have steadily increased during the year.

The water is very hard (showing both temporary and permanent hardness) and since there are many disadvantages in using such water for domestic purposes it was decided at the latter end of the year to make enquiries as to the cost of installing a softening plant. There is no evidence that hard water has any deleterious effect on health.

Some few houses in the Borough obtain their water from stand-pipes tapping the old Conduit supply. There are 24 such stand-pipes situated in various parts of the town.

Purity of Supplies

In order to keep a check on the purity of the water, and its suitability for drinking purposes, samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination at roughly monthly intervals.

Reports on samples examined during the year are as follows:-

Town Supply

- 7 samples - Highly satisfactory.
- 2 " - Not entirely satisfactory for a chlorinated supply.
- 2 " - Unsatisfactory for a chlorinated supply.

Conduit Supply

- 2 samples - Highly satisfactory.
- 1 " - Satisfactory.
- 6 " - Scanty growth of coliform organisms none of which appeared to be of excretal origin.

In view of the slight contamination which occurred in this supply during the year, the well and storage tank were treated with hypochlorite solution to render the water safe.

Work carried out during the year

The Surveyor reports as follows:-

Conduit Lane

During the year 142 yards of 3" spun iron water main were laid, sufficient to supply all proposed development in this road.

Oldbury (Brook Cottages)

The work of extending the watermain at Oldbury was completed. 88 yards of 3" cast iron, 137 yards of 3" asbestos, and 150 yards of 2" galvanised watermain were laid. Water supply was brought within a reasonable distance of Brook Cottages where unsatisfactory samples of water were taken from a well pump last year. These houses have since been connected and now have a wholesome supply of water for domestic use. Several new connections were also made to this pipe to improve existing supplies.

The Grove Housing Site

During the year 354 yards of 3" asbestos main were laid in the Queens Road. This completes the water scheme for the new houses now being constructed.

Stableford Supply

Representations were made during the year at a meeting with Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking regarding safeguards to Bridgnorth Waterworks in the event of a supply being taken from Stableford. Agreement was reached to protection no less favourable than that contained in Sections 27 and 28 of the Wolverhampton Corporation Act, 1936, and a guarantee that Wolverhampton will not overpump their supply at Hilton and Stableford.

River Severn

No serious flooding occurred during the year.

Hollybush Road - Defective sewer

Thirty-six yards of 12" sewer pipes were re-laid from just below New Road to Hollybush Road, and a new manhole constructed in Hollybush Road at the junction point.

The old 9" sewer being defective and blocked by tree roots was abandoned.

Victoria Road - Defective sewer

Blockages occurred on the old sewer near the head of Victoria Road. Several excavations were made and it was found that the sewer had collapsed. Repairs were carried out and as many properties as possible were diverted into the new sewer which was laid for the Sydney Cottage development.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Rodent Operative who works in the Borough for a total of one month in every quarter dealt with all premises reported and those found to be infested with rats or mice, including a number of industrial undertakings which have contracts.

Two treatments were carried out on the sewer in the District. Three partial takes were observed in the first treatment in the Spring, but none in the Autumn.

Periodic treatments of the refuse tip and sewage works kept them reasonably free.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTION.

The collection of refuse and salvage is carried out by the Corporation in the whole of the Borough.

Household salvage is collected with refuse, and another vehicle is engaged for one half-day per week collecting salvage from commercial premises.

Tipping space at the refuse-tip is rapidly filling up and it will soon be necessary to find another site. Unfortunately there are no suitable sites within the Borough which could be run economically and without causing a nuisance. The only alternative, apart from a new site outside the Borough, is to construct a small specially designed plant for complete incineration, on the existing site.

During the Summer months frequent complaints were received from the Staff of the Hospital, of extreme fly-nuisance on their premises. Since the Hospital is situated within half a mile of the refuse-tip, and this, in its present condition, must provide an ideal breeding-ground for flies, it is very probable that the tip was responsible for at least part of the trouble.

The tip continued to be treated regularly with insecticides and the hospital staff were given advice and help in dealing with the problem which however persisted despite their efforts, until the onset of colder weather.

It is desirable that consideration should be given in the near future to improving the provisions for disposal of refuse.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Now Sewage Disposal Scheme

During the early months of the year, approval for the provision of a new sewage-pumping station, sewage disposal works and system of sewerage to serve the Borough (with the exception of Oldbury) was received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Pipes for the scheme have been placed on order and a starting date of 1st April 1954 agreed with the Ministry. Tenders were invited in the Autumn and that of Messrs. Wilson, Lovatt & Sons Ltd. (£74,737. 9. 2.) was accepted.

This new sewage disposal scheme for the town is long overdue, the existing disposal works at Stanley Lane being quite incapable of dealing adequately with the volume of material passing through them. The pollution of the River Severn which must occur from the two existing sewage outfalls is also a highly undesirable feature of the present state of affairs.

The new scheme, in brief, provides for sewage from the Low Town to be conveyed to the pumping-station by the River, from where it will be pumped to the site of the new disposal plant, not far from the present works, for treatment along with sewage from the High Town.

The Surveyor reports that the following improvements have been carried out during the year:

Grove Housing Site

During the year the Lodge Farm drains were connected to the housing site system and the existing septic tank closed. This was carried out at the expense of the Council under Section 42 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (drains not adapted to the general sewerage system of the district).

Sedimentation Tank

Work was commenced on the construction of a temporary sedimentation tank on the Grove Housing Estate to give preliminary treatment to sewage before being discharged into the public sewer. This tank will deal with sewage from approximately 150 houses, the majority of which are still under construction.

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

(1)	Factories within the Borough during 1953 employing mechanical power	- 46
(2)	Factories " " " "not employing mechanical power	- 12
(3)	Other premises, e.g. Electrical Stations, Sites of Building operations & works of Engineering construction	- 3
	Total	- 61

The Borough Council under the above Act is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the adequacy and suitability of sanitary conveniences in all factories, and premises under Section (3) above, and is responsible for cleanliness, prevention of over-crowding, maintenance of an adequate temperature, ventilation, and drainage of floors in factories not employing mechanical power.

They also have the responsibility of ensuring that persons employed on out-work in their own homes are not working under conditions injurious or dangerous to health.

During the year 18 inspections of Factories were made. In two cases lack of cleanliness was found, and the defect was remedied in both.

H.M. Inspector of Factories reported one case in which sanitary conveniences were unsuitable or defective.

One person was notified by his employer as being an outworker.

SECTION D.

H O U S I N G.

Number of inhabited houses	...	2,076
Number of Council owned houses	...	422
Houses completed in 1953		
Council -	72	
Private -	<u>19</u>	
	<u>91</u>	
Total applications for houses	...	310
Applications for Improvement Grants..		2
Applications for above granted	..	Nil
Private licences granted in 1953	...	22
Number of houses under construction		
at 31st December 1953		
(a) Council -	38	
(b) Private -	14	

The shortage of housing accommodation continues to be a serious problem in the Borough as in other parts of the country. Excellent progress has been made on the Grove Estate with the completion of 72 new Council Houses. This figure exceeds by 31 the number completed in 1952. The number of new houses on the Grove Estate is now 92 and we are therefore almost half-way towards the total of 200 planned. Private building has also increased, 19 new houses having been completed in 1953 as compared with 9 in the previous year.

Improvement Grants

House-property owners are slow to take advantage of the facilities made available under the Housing Act 1949 for grants towards the improvement of their premises. Of the two applications received during the year, neither was considered suitable.

Under the provisions of the Act, the Local Authority can make a grant not exceeding 50% of the cost of approved improvements and conversions to dwelling-houses provided the cost is at least £100 and does not exceed £800. This provision applies only to dwellings which are structurally sound before the improvements are considered, and not to dilapidated and defective houses.

Housing Repairs

The Housing Repairs and Rents Bill which was under Parliamentary consideration towards the end of the year aims to encourage landlords to carry out repairs to their property, by allowing an increase of rent in the case of houses controlled by the Rent Restrictions Acts. In applying for permission to increase the rent, the landlord will have to declare that he has spent a certain specified amount (calculated according to the rateable value of the house) in a certain period of time on repairs.

Many houses have been allowed to fall into a sad state of disrepair in recent years owing to the greatly increased

costs of labour and materials required for repairs and the control on rents. It is to be hoped that these new provisions will encourage landlords to bring their properties up to standard, and to keep them in good condition.

Unfit Houses

In the case of an unfit house, incapable of being made fit at reasonable expense, where demolition would endanger adjoining property, it is now possible under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 to make a Closing Order in respect of such a house. Under the Housing Act, it was only permissible to make a Closing Order on part of a house which was unfit.

The number of unfit houses in the Borough remains a matter for concern, and it is anticipated that direction will shortly be forthcoming from the Ministry of Housing & Local Government for a programme to be prepared regarding proposals for slum-clearance and the remedying of unfit houses. In the preparation of such a programme a complete review of the housing needs of the area would have to be made.

The Sanitary Inspector reports as follows :-

Number of houses inspected under Public Health or Housing Acts during the year	...	...	47
Number of inspections for the purpose	...	...	98
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit by informal action	...	...	38
Number of houses rendered fit after formal action	...	...	Nil
Number of houses demolished	...	...	4
Number of houses closed in pursuance of Undertaking under Section 11A	...	...	1
Number of houses closed under Section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	...	...	1
Number of houses condemned under Housing Act, Section 11	...	...	5

Overcrowding

A number of cases have been re-housed.

Building Bye-laws

The model building bye-laws were adopted and came into operation on the 22nd July, 1953.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT.

The Borough continued to obtain its meat supplies from the Central Abattoir at Wolverhampton.

The end of food-rationing was already within sight at the end of the year, and the Ministry of Food had indicated earlier that it was their intention to discontinue their control over slaughterhouses when meat was no longer rationed, and that Local Authorities must be prepared to make arrangements for slaughtering facilities in their areas. It is the policy of the Government that eventually a system of "moderate concentration" of slaughterhouses should evolve, with about 300-400 to serve the whole country, and that there should not be a return to pre-war conditions where many thousands of small, often completely unsuitable and unhygienic premises, were used as slaughterhouses.

MILK.

Registered Dairies (under Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949)	5
Licensed Dealers (operating from Registered Dairies)	4
Other licensed dealers (trading from other shops etc.)	7
Supplementary Dealers (trading in the town from other districts)..	1
Milk producers in district (under supervision of Ministry of Agriculture)..	16

During the year 3 samples of milk were taken and submitted to examination for cleanliness, keeping quality, and evidence of satisfactory heat treatment - two of the samples were reported as being satisfactory.

ICE-CREAM.

There were 47 premises in the Borough registered for the sale of ice-cream, all but one selling pre-packed products. In the one case where ice-cream is made on the premises the "cold-mix" method is employed. In this method water is added to a prepared powder, which is supplied in airtight containers, and the mixture immediately frozen.

During the year a total of 26 samples of ice-cream were taken to check on cleanliness and keeping quality and the results are as follows.

Grade I	-	17
" II	-	2
" III	-	1
" IV	-	Nil
Tests void	-	6

These results are very satisfactory, 19 of the 20 valid samples falling into Grades I and II. It is

recommended by the Ministry of Health that 80% of samples should fall into these two categories.

Conditions under which ice-cream is prepared and sold require careful supervision, as it can readily become a vehicle of infectious disease.

FOOD-PREMISES.

A number of routine inspections were made during the year at Food-shops and Cafés and several notices were served under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 (Provisions relating to rooms in which food, other than milk, intended for human consumption is stored, prepared, sold etc.)

A great deal of publicity has in recent times been given to the very unsatisfactory conditions under which our food is sold in the shops, and prepared and served in cafés and restaurants; the food exposed to dust & flies, the careless handling of unwrapped food by shop-assistants, the cracked and dirty crockery in which meals are served, the inadequate sanitary conveniences for staff and public, the lack of hot-water, soap and towels for the use of food-handlers and so on.

The Food & Drugs Amendment Bill now before Parliament seeks to remedy a state of affairs which has been tolerated by the public for far too long. It is to be hoped that the Bill will make provision for the registration by local authorities of all premises in which food is handled, so that they may be inspected regularly and certain rigid standards of cleanliness and hygiene enforced.

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 (dealing with the hygienic handling of food for sale) came into operation in 1950 and most shopkeepers dealing with food in the town are now in possession of these. Efforts have been made to persuade owners of food-shops whose premises were unhygienic to remedy the defects and good co-operation on the whole has been obtained.

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA BY TYPE.

Grocers	16
Greengrocers	11
Butchers	10
General Stores	10
Cafés	9
Bakers	8
Fishmongers	3

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE FOOD & DRUGS ACT 1938.

	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Number of Inspections.</u>
Cooked meats etc.	11	20
Fish-friers	7	10
Ice-cream	47	53

FOOD CONDEMNED.

The following foods were condemned as being unfit for human consumption during the year.

Prepared and Cooked meats

Meat	-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Sausage	-	12 lb.

Canned and Potted Food

Meat	-	39 tins (113 lbs. 5oz.)
Paste	-	2 jars (3oz.)
Vegetables	-	89 tins (92 lb. 3oz.)
Fish	-	47 tins (14 lb. 2oz.)
Fruit	-	262 tins (343 lb. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.)
Milk	-	39 tins (71 pints)
Chutney & Pickles	-	5 jars.

Other Foods

Jam	-	4 jars.
Cheese	-	171 packets, 84 lb. and 3 large cheeses.
Soya Flour	-	12 - 1 lb. packets
Puddings	-	1 tin (1 lb.)
Sweets	-	127 packets.
Cake	-	5 rolls.
Chocolate Spread	-	1 carton.
Dates	-	23 boxes.
Raisins	-	540 lb. (this quantity being the whole of one consignment, was condemned due to fermentation, and infestation of Ephestia Elutelia moth).

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Goods delivered or collected by the Council and destroyed on a small incinerator at the refuse-tip.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year.

Whooping-cough	82
Measles	14
Pneumonia	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	1
<hr/>	
Total	103
<hr/>	

Whooping-cough accounted for the greatest number of the notifications during 1953, the heaviest incidence occurring during the last quarter of the year when 62 of the total 82 cases were notified. The younger school-children were chiefly affected, the age-groups showing the highest numbers of cases being 5 and 6 years. In 1952 only 5 cases were notified in the Borough.

Immunisation against what is now probably the most dangerous and most distressing of all the Infectious Diseases of childhood is now available, and while complete resistance to the disease is not claimed in all cases as a result of immunisation, recent clinical trials throughout the country have shown that immunised children developing whooping-cough have a modified form of the disease, with less severe symptoms and fewer complications than those without this protection. Protection can be given in infancy concurrently with diphtheria immunisation, or in later childhood.

There were fewer cases of measles this year than in 1952 (14 as compared with 115) and all cases occurred during the first four months of the year.

The case of acute poliomyelitis was of the non-paralytic type and there was complete recovery.

There were again no cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid fever, Food Poisoning or Small-pox.

Vaccination.

Vaccination against small-pox though no longer compulsory by law is by no means no longer necessary, as some are apt to imagine. With the speed of modern air-travel it is quite possible for a person to enter this country from an area where small-pox is prevalent, while incubating the disease and suffering no definite symptoms, and thus spread the infection among those with whom he comes in contact. Only those who have been successfully vaccinated can consider themselves reasonably safe from such a potential risk. To ensure that protection is adequate, vaccination should ideally be repeated every 5 - 7 years.

Babies should be vaccinated for the first time at about the age of 4 months and with modern methods this is a practically painless procedure with little or no general

upset and no unsightly scars. Many young mothers one finds nowadays are afraid to allow their babies this protection, and questioning reveals the fact that they have listened to lurid and gruesome accounts of the awful consequences of this procedure told by doubtless well-meaning friends, whose advice they obviously value more than that of their medical advisers.

It should be added that vaccination done for the first time in adult life such as may be necessary during a small-pox "scare", on entry into the Armed Forces or for emigration purposes may sometimes be accompanied by unpleasant local and general reactions.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Though diphtheria as a disease has virtually disappeared from our midst during the past few years, the need for immunisation continues to be as great as before. The germs are still with us, and many people themselves immune may become "carriers" and thus spread the infection to those who are not protected. Natural immunity is not acquired so readily as when diphtheria was a common disease, and if we do not wish to see its return, the immunisation campaign must go on.

Babies should be immunised for the first time at about the age of 8 months and a "booster dose" administered at 5 years before the child goes to school.

Valuable work is done by the Health Visitors in the course of their routine duties in pressing the need for this protection, and the response on the part of the mothers is on the whole good, but at every school medical inspection one finds a handful of 5-year-olds who for one reason or another or for no good reason at all have never been immunised.

Both vaccination and immunisation can be done by arrangement with a general practitioner or at the Child Welfare Centre, where a special Session for this purpose is held on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 10 - 11 a.m.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1953 was as follows.

<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>		<u>Total.</u>
<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
16	14	3	4	37

New Cases.

There were three new cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified during the year (two females ages 27 and 39, and one male aged 2 years). There were no new non-respiratory cases.

There is an improvement on the figures for 1952, when 5 respiratory and 5 non-respiratory cases were notified.

Deaths

There were no deaths registered as due to Tuberculosis.

CANCER.

There were 11 deaths due to cancer during the year (5 male and 6 female) as compared with 14 deaths during 1952. Two of the eleven deaths were due to cancer of the lung (one male, one female).

The cancer death-rate per 1,000 of the population is 1.793, compared with 2.315 per 1,000 in 1952.
